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APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **GORDON SLADEN**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
TRAILER WIND BYPASS SYSTEM of which the following is a
specification:

TRAILER WIND BYPASS SYSTEM

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to air deflector assemblies and more particularly pertains to a new trailer wind bypass system for inhibiting a trailer be tipped over by the wind.

15 Description of the Prior Art

The use of air deflector assemblies is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 5,595,419 describes a system for deflecting air around trailer. Another type of air deflector assembly is U.S. Patent No. 5,791,724 having a plurality of fins attached to the top of tractor for deflecting air passing over the cab of the tractor sideways and downwardly through a gap behind the cab. U.S. Patent No. 6,224,141 has a deflecting system mounted to the side of a trailer for deflecting air over and under the trailer.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a system that has certain improved features that allow for wind to pass through the trailer to reduce the chances of the trailer being tipped over by the

30 wind.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by vent assemblies coupled to the box portion of a trailer member that
5 selectively open to allow wind striking the side of the box portion to pass directly through the box portion.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new trailer wind bypass system that is easily activated by the user
10 driving the tractor.

To this end, the present invention generally comprises a trailer member comprising a box portion and a plurality of wheels. The box portion is designed for receiving items to be transported
15 over the road. The wheels are rotatably coupled to the box portion whereby the wheels are designed for rolling across the road to facilitate transportation of the box portion over the road. The trailer member is designed for being coupled to a tractor whereby the tractor pulls the trailer member over the road. The box portion
20 of the trailer member comprises a plurality of vent assemblies. Each of the vent assemblies is selectively opened to permit wind to pass through the box portion of the trailer member. At least one actuation assembly is operationally coupled to the vent assemblies. The actuation assembly is coupled to the trailer member. The
25 actuation assembly is for selectively opening and closing the vent assemblies when the actuation assembly is actuated by a user.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed
30 description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better

appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

5 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

10 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such
15 description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a new trailer wind bypass system according to the present invention shown coupled to a tractor.

20 Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of one of the vent assemblies the present invention taken along line 2-2 of Figure 1.

 Figure 3 is a schematic view of the present invention.

25 **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

 With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 3 thereof, a new trailer wind bypass system
30 embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 3, the trailer wind bypass system 10 generally comprises a trailer member 11 comprising a box portion 12 and a plurality of wheels 13. The box portion 12 is designed for receiving items to be transported over the road. The wheels 13 are rotatably coupled to the box portion 12 whereby the wheels 13 are designed for rolling across the road to facilitate transportation of the box portion 12 over the road. The trailer member 11 is designed for being coupled to a tractor whereby the tractor pulls the trailer member 11 over the road.

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The box portion 12 of the trailer member 11 comprises a plurality of vent assemblies 14. Each of the vent assemblies 14 is selectively opened to permit wind to pass through the box portion 12 of the trailer member 11. Each of the vent assemblies 14 is positioned opposite one of the other of the vent assemblies 14. Each of the vent assemblies 14 is designed for permitting wind to pass directly through the box portion 12 to the aligned one of the vent assemblies 14 to be vented out of the other side of the box portion 12 to reduce the amount of force produced on the box portion 12 by the wind.

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At least one actuation assembly 15 is operationally coupled to the vent assemblies 14. The actuation assembly 15 is coupled to the trailer member 11. The actuation assembly 15 is for selectively opening and closing the vent assemblies 14 when the actuation assembly 15 is actuated by a user.

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Each of the vent assemblies 14 comprises a door member 16. The door member 16 of each of the vent assemblies 14 is positioned adjacent one of a plurality of vent apertures 17 in the box portion

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12 of the trailer member 11. The door member 16 is operationally coupled to the box portion 12 whereby the door member 16 is selectively slid over the associated one of the vent apertures 17 to open and close the vent apertures 17. The door member 16 of each
5 of the vent assemblies 14 is operationally coupled to the actuation assembly 15 whereby the actuation assembly 15 actuates the door member 16 of each of the vent assemblies 14 to selectively open and close the vent apertures 17 of the trailer member 11 when the actuation assembly 15 is actuated by the user.

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Each of the vent assemblies 14 comprises a pair of rail members 18. Each of the rail members 18 is coupled to the box portion 12 of the trailer member 11 whereby each of the rail members 18 is positioned adjacent the associated one of the vent
15 apertures 17 of the trailer member 11. Each of the rail members 18 slidably receives the door member 16 of the associated one of the vent assemblies 14 whereby the rail members 18 permit the door member 16 to slide with respect the associated one of the vent apertures 17 when the door member 16 of each of the vent
20 assemblies 14 is actuated by the user.

Each of the vent assemblies 14 comprises a screen member 19. The screen member 19 is coupled to the box portion 12 of the trailer member 11 whereby the screen member 19 is positioned over
25 the associated one of the vent apertures 17 whereby the screen member 19 is designed for inhibiting items in the box portion 12 from falling through the associated one of the vent apertures 17. The screen member 19 is designed for permitting fluid to pass through the screen member 19 to reduce the force applied to the box
30 portion 12 by wind blowing against the box portion 12 when the

door member 16 are actuated by actuation assembly 15 to open the vent apertures 17.

A linkage assembly 20 is operationally coupled between the door member 16 of each of the vent assemblies 14 and the actuation assembly 15. The linkage assembly 20 is for permitting the actuation assembly 15 to actuate the door member 16 of each of the vent assemblies 14 simultaneously when the actuation assembly 15 is actuated by the user.

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The actuation assembly 15 comprises a vacuum assembly 21. The vacuum assembly 21 is operationally coupled to the linkage assembly 20. The vacuum assembly 21 is coupled to the box portion 12 of the trailer assembly. The vacuum assembly 21 is for actuating the door member 16 of each of the vent assemblies 14 to selectively permit wind to pass through the box portion 12 of the trailer assembly.

The actuation assembly 15 comprises a switch member 22. The switch member 22 is operationally coupled to the vacuum assembly 21 whereby the switch member 22 is for actuating the vacuum assembly 21 when the switch member 22 is actuated by the user. The switch member 22 is designed for being positioned in the tractor whereby the switch member 22 is easily accessed by the user driving the tractor.

In use, the user actuates the switch member 22 to actuate the vacuum assembly 21 to slide the door member 16 of each of vent assemblies 14 and open the vent apertures 17 of the box portion 12 when the user feels the wind is applying a greater than desired

force on the box portion 12. As the vent apertures 17 are opened the wind is allowed to pass through the box portion 12 to reduce the force the wind is applying to the trailer member 11 and thereby inhibit the trailer member 11 from being tipper over by the wind.

- 5 The user then actuates the switch member 22 again to actuates the vacuum assembly 21 and allows the door member 16 of each of the vent assemblies 14 slide back and close the vent apertures 17 when the wind is no longer applying a greater than desired force on the trailer member 11.

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- With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed
15 readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

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- Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable
25 modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.